

THE  
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF OLDBURY.

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**Annual Report**  
OF THE  
**HEALTH OF OLDBURY,**

FOR THE  
**Year ending December 31st, 1905,**  
*HEALTH MISSIONER'S REPORT,*

AND  
*REPORT OF SANITARY INSPECTOR.*

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**GEO. B. BUTTERY, L.R.C.P., etc.,**  
FELLOW OF INCORPORATED SOCIETY OF MEDICAL OFFICERS OF HEALTH,  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

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PRINTED BY ORDER OF THE COUNCIL.

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OLDBURY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

With the  
Medical Officer's Compliments.  
Oldbury.

Public Buildings,  
Oldbury.

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*To the Chairman and members of the Urban District  
Council of Oldbury.*

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GENTLEMEN,

I have great pleasure in presenting my Annual Report on the public health of the town for the year 1905, and I trust you will consider it a satisfactory one. The two chief points in the report calling for special notice is the lower death-rate recorded, in comparison with that of the previous year, and the much smaller incidence of disease generally, and of epidemic disease in particular.

In other respects the health conditions of the town appear to be making steady and satisfactory progress.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

GEO. B. BUTTERY, L.R.C.P., &c.,

Medical Officer of Health.



# The Urban District of Oldbury.

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## INTRODUCTORY.

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*To the Chairman and Members of the Urban District  
Council of Oldbury.*

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GENTLEMEN,

I have great pleasure in presenting my Annual Report on the public health of the town for the year 1905, and I trust you will consider it a satisfactory one. The two chief points in the report calling for special notice is the lower death-rate recorded, in comparison with that of the previous year, and the much smaller incidence of disease generally, and of epidemic disease in particular.

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Yours faithfully,

GEO. B. BUTTERY, L.R.C.P., &c.,

Medical Officer of Health.

## VITAL STATISTICS.

Area of District.

The area of the district is 3548 acres.

Population.

The estimated population at the 30th June, 1905, was 26,500.

Inhabited Houses.

Two hundred and eighty new houses have been erected during 1905. There were 5871 at the end of 1904; of these 7 have been closed as uninhabitable. The houses therefore at present inhabitable number 6144; of these it is estimated that 320 are void. We have therefore 5824 houses occupied. Taking the population as estimated, there are 4·5 persons per house inhabited.

### BIRTH-RATE.

Birth-rate.

Nine hundred and twenty-six births were registered during the year, viz., 463 males and 463 females (a singular coincidence, males and females in equal proportion). The birth-rate for the year is 34·9 per 1000 inhabitants. In 1904 the birth-rate was 36·7. The average birth-rate for the past ten years has been 36·7 per 1000.

During the past year therefore there has been a slight decline in our birth-rate, but if we compare it with that of England and Wales, which is 27·0 per 1000, we have not much cause for alarm at present that our natural increase in population is imperilled.

### DEATH-RATE.

General Death-rate.

The deaths registered in the Oldbury District numbered 383, producing a death-rate of 14·7 per 1000 per annum. To these must be added those deaths belonging to the district which have been registered outside our area. These comprise all deaths which have occurred in the Workhouse, at the Hospitals in West Bromwich and Birmingham, and one which happened at the Infirmary at Walsall. The sum total of all these was 38, bringing up our net deaths to 421, and a death-rate of 15·8 per 1000. This compares favourably with the preceding year, when it was 20·4 per 1000. This is the lowest net death-rate ever recorded in Oldbury since reliable figures have been kept. It proves that during the past year there has been a great improvement in the general health of the district, especially this is the case as regards epidemic disease, for, with the exception of measles and whooping cough at the beginning of the

year, there has been very little disease of an infectious nature prevalent. Then, also, there has been a marked decrease in the number of deaths from bronchitis and pneumonia, which usually figure largely in our death returns. The diminution in the mortality from diarrhœa and enteritis is very striking, when compared with former years. Phthisis deaths are again higher than we have been accustomed to experience in Oldbury; the same remarks also apply to cancer for this past year and also for the preceding one. With the exception of these two latter diseases, we may consider that there has been a great improvement so far as our death-rate is concerned.

### INFANTILE MORTALITY.

The deaths amongst children under the age of one year were 143, giving an infantile mortality rate of 154 per 1000 births, compared with an infantile mortality of 201 per 1000 births in the previous year. The average mortality for the past ten years is 199 per 1000 births. This is a more favourable condition of things than we have experienced hitherto, but even this is far too high.

I am hoping that we may still greatly reduce this preventible high mortality by educating and instructing the parents in the art of rearing their offspring. This we are, and have been, doing in Oldbury for several years past—with the assistance of the County Council—in employing a Lady Health Missioner, whose sole duty it is to afford advice and instruction to those who stand so much in need of it.

I am of opinion that a portion of this improvement in our infantile mortality is due to the efforts of our Health Missioner.

There is one regrettable item in our death returns to which I must allude, viz.:—the relatively great number of premature births. This factor each year helps to swell our total deaths amongst the infantile population. The difficulty is how it is to be dealt with. I can only suggest at present that greater care should be exercised in the mode of living and working by the parents at the important period.

There have been fewer deaths from intestinal affections than usually occur. This may probably be due in some

Infantile  
Mortality less  
than in former  
years.

The Benefit of  
the Lady Health  
Missioner.



measure to the improved method of feeding the children, which is being taught by the Lady Missioner.

### ZYMOTIC DEATHS.

The zymotic deaths registered during the year were as follows:—17 from measles, 6 from whooping cough, 2 from croup, 3 from typhoid fever, 10 from enteritis, and 29 from diarrhœa. The zymotic death-rate is 2·1 per 1000 of the population, compared with 4·2 per 1000 in the previous year. These figures prove that measles and diarrhœa, as usual, are the two great factors in our zymotic death-rate.

### PHTHISIS AND RESPIRATORY DEATHS.

Twenty-one deaths were registered as occurring from phthisis, with a phthisis death-rate of 0·7 per 1000 per annum, compared with 17 deaths and a phthisis death-rate of 0·6 per 1000 in the previous year. These figures shew that this lamentable disease is unfortunately on the increase in Oldbury. I have tried to discover the causes for this increase of the disease, but I have to admit that I cannot solve the problem. It is certainly not due to overcrowding, as we have continual supervision of the housing of the people; our figures also demonstrate that we have a little under 4·5 persons to each house in the district. There is one thing, however, to which I should like to call attention, and that is, that the people should ventilate their dwellings better than they do at present. This I am constantly trying to affect, but it is astonishing how people object to admit fresh air, especially into the bedrooms, "for fear of catching cold." They therefore stop up their chimneys, keep the windows shut up night and day, as if the fresh air was a poisonous thing.

### DEATHS FROM OTHER RESPIRATORY DISEASES.

The deaths from other respiratory affections numbered 72, and are classed as follows:—37 from bronchitis, 33 from pneumonia, and 2 from pleurisy, with a respiratory death-rate of 2·3 per 1000 per annum.

This compares favourably with the preceding year, with 119 deaths and a respiratory death-rate of 4·4 per 1000.

Measles and  
Diarrhœa, the  
two great  
factors.

The increase of  
Phthisis.

Decrease in the  
Respiratory  
Deaths.



These figures prove that there were fewer deaths from chest affections than ever before recorded in Oldbury.

### CANCER DEATHS.

Increase in  
Cancer Deaths.

I have to report that the deaths from cancer are still on the increase, 21 during the past year compared with 20 in the previous one, when I called attention to the fact that in 1903 there were only 7 deaths from this malady. In the present state of our knowledge it is quite impossible to account for the spread of this fell disease. We can only hope that the increase is only of a transitory nature.

### EPIDEMIC DISEASE.

The number of infectious diseases notified during the year was 105. This is the least number notified for many years past.

Measles.

Measles, as you are aware, <sup>is</sup> ~~are~~ not amongst our notifiable diseases. In the early part of the year there was an outbreak of measles, chiefly in the Langley, Warley, and Rounds Green Wards. There were 17 deaths due to the disease. As I have on several occasions pointed out, this is, in our experience, the most fatal of all infectious complaints. I can only once more try to impress upon the public the importance of treating this affection more seriously than it appears to obtain amongst them at present.

Whooping  
Cough.

Whooping cough again manifested itself in the early months of the year, and 6 deaths were due to this cause. Like measles, this distressing disorder is often treated in too light-hearted a manner, when in reality it requires the greatest care and attention in its treatment, for unless the little patient is kept warmly clad and otherwise properly treated, capillary bronchitis and pneumonia easily supervene, with such disastrous consequences.

Diphtheria and  
Croup.

There has been 1 case of diphtheria and 2 cases of croup notified. The diphtheria case recovered, but both cases of croup were fatal.

Up to the present diphtheria has not gained any hold in the Oldbury district; still, we have to keep vigilant in respect of this malady, and every precaution is exercised when a case is reported to us, and, fortunately, we have been able to prevent any spread of the disease.

**Scarlet Fever.**

During the year 47 cases of scarlet fever have been notified without a death.

The cases have been pretty evenly distributed over the whole district, although Langley had the greatest number, viz., 15, while Broadwell and Warley had 9 cases each, the Central had 8, and Rounds Green 6 cases. And, although the disease has been of a mild type, it has caused a considerable amount of work in the health department, especially that we have no means of isolation except that we can get adopted at the patient's home. We keep in constant touch with each case, and by supplying disinfectants, and afterwards by thoroughly disinfecting the premises, we help to stamp out the disease and prevent its spread.

**Typhoid Fever.**

Twenty cases of typhoid fever have been notified during the year. There have been 3 deaths from the disease, compared with 16 cases in the previous year and 7 deaths. Eight of the cases occurred in two houses in one court. In this instance I am of opinion that the unpaved condition of the yard contributed to the outbreak of the disease. Ten cases have been treated in the hospital, and 2 of them died. They were both very bad ones, as were several others, and I feel sure that if these had remained outside they would have died, but were saved by good nursing and attention.

**Puerperal Fever.**

Two cases of puerperal fever were notified, and both recovered.

**Erysipelas.**

Thirty-three cases of erysipelas were notified, and all recovered.

**General  
Conclusions on  
Epidemic  
Disease.**

With the exception of measles and diarrhoea, we have had very little zymotic disease of a fatal nature prevalent during the year 1905. And while we cannot expect that these favourable conditions will always obtain, I do think that we are now benefiting by the wiser policy inaugurated a few years ago, after the last severe epidemic of typhoid fever.

The paving of the yards, substituting the water carriage system for the old filthy privy middens, and the constant supervision of the properties by your health officers, have without doubt contributed to bring about these more satisfactory results.

TABLE 1.

Birth-rate, 34·9.	Measles death-rate, 0·6.
Nett death-rate, 15·8.	Enteritis death-rate, 0·3.
Infantile Mortality, 154 0.	Whooping cough death-rate, 0·2.
Croup death-rate, 0·07.	Zymotic death-rate, 2·1.
Fever death-rate, 0·1.	Diarrhœa death-rate, 1·0.
Phthisis death-rate, 0·7.	Cancer death-rate, 0·7.
Respiratory death-rate, 2·3.	

TABLE II.—*Causes of, and Ages at, Death during Year 1905.*

Causes of Death.	Deaths in Whole District at Subjoined Ages.							Deaths in Localities (at all ages).						Residents or non-Residents in Public Institutions.
	All Ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.	Broadwell Ward.	Central Ward.	Rounds Green Ward.	Langley Ward.	Warley Ward.	Workhouse and Hospitals.	
Small-Pox ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles ...	17	4	12	1	...	...	...	2	3	4	4	3	1	...
Scarlet Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping-Cough ...	6	1	5	...	...	...	...	2	1	2	...	1	...	...
Diphtheria and Membraneous Croup ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Croup ...	2	1	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...
Fever { Typhus ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric ...	3	...	...	2	...	1	...	1	1	...	...	1	...	2
Other continued ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Epidemic Influenza ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cholera ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Plague ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diarrhœa ...	29	22	1	...	1	4	1	9	3	4	6	7	...	...
Enteritis ...	10	8	1	...	...	1	...	3	3	2	1	1	...	...
Puerperal Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Septic Diseases... 5	1	...	...	2	2	...	...	...	2	...	1	2	...	...
Phthisis (Pul. Tub.) ... 21	...	...	1	4	15	1	2	4	4	3	3	5	...	...
Other Tubercular Diseases ... 8	...	4	2	...	2	...	2	...	1	1	3	1	...	...
Cancer, Malignant Disease ... 21	...	...	...	...	13	8	4	5	2	3	7	...	...	...
Bronchitis ... 37	10	6	...	...	7	14	9	10	6	4	7	1	...	...
Pneumonia ... 33	9	13	2	...	8	1	10	6	6	3	6	2	...	...
Pleurisy ... 2	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...
Other Diseases of Respiratory Organs ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Alcoholism ...	3	...	...	...	3	...	1	1	...	1	...	...	...	...
Cirrhosis of Liver ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Venereal Diseases ... 2	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...
Premature Birth ... 21	21	...	...	...	...	...	4	4	5	2	6	...	...	...
Diseases and Accidents of Parturition ... 4	...	...	...	...	4	...	...	2	...	...	2	...	...	...
Heart Diseases ... 25	...	...	...	1	19	5	5	3	5	3	5	4	...	...
Accidents ... 17	2	1	5	2	4	3	1	1	2	3	3	7	...	...
Suicides ... 4	...	...	...	...	3	1	...	...	1	...	2	1	...	...
All other Causes ... 151	63	7	1	1	26	52	30	28	33	28	19	13	...	...
All Causes ...	421	143	51	15	11	113	87	86	76	81	63	78	37	2

TABLE III.—Cases of Infectious Disease Notified during the Year 1905.

Notifiable Disease.	Cases Notified in Whole District.							Total Cases Notified in each Locality.					No. of Cases Removed to Hospital from each Locality.				
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.						Broadwell Ward.	Central Ward.	Rounds Green Ward.	Langley Ward.	Warley Ward.	Broadwell Ward.	Central Ward.	Rounds Green Ward.	Langley Ward.	Warley Ward.
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 65.	65 and upwards.										
Small-Pox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cholera	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria	1	...	1	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Membranous Croup	2	...	1	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas	33	...	1	2	2	23	5	12	8	7	6	9	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	47	...	13	32	2	...	...	9	8	6	15	...	...	...	...	...	...
Typhus Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric Fever	20	...	2	4	6	8	...	3	9	3	1	4	1	6	1	...	...
Relapsing Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Continued Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Fever	2	...	...	...	...	2	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Plague	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	105	...	17	40	10	33	5	27	25	16	24	13	1	6	1	...	...

II.—The Infectious Hospital is situated in Rounds Green Ward.

TABLE IV.—*Infantile Mortality during the Year 1905.*  
*Deaths from stated Causes in Weeks and Months under One Year of Age.*

CAUSE OF DEATH.		Under 1 week.	1-2 weeks.	2-3 weeks.	3-4 weeks.	Total under 1 month.	1-2 months.	2-3 months.	3-4 months.	4-5 months.	5-6 months.	6-7 months.	7-8 months.	8-9 months.	9-10 months.	10-11 months.	11-12 months.	Total Deaths under 1 year.
Common Infectious Diseases.	Small-pox ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Chicken-pox ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Measles ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Scarlet Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Croup ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diarrhoeal Diseases.	Whooping Cough...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Diarrhoea, all forms ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Enteritis ( <i>not Tuberculous</i> ) ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Gastritis, Gastro-intestinal Catarrh ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Premature Birth...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Wasting Diseases.	Congenital Defects ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Injury at Birth ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Want of Breast-milk ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Aurophy, Debility, Marasmus ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Tuberculous Meningitis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Tuberculous Diseases.	Tuberculous Peritonitis: Tabes Mesenterica ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Other Tuberculous Diseases ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Erysipelas ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Syphilis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Rickets ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Meningitis ( <i>not Tuberculous</i> ) ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Convulsions ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Bronchitis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Laryngitis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Pneumonia ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Suffocation, overlaying ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Other Causes ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		3	...	...	2	5	4	1	1	...	2	1	...	2	...	...	...	16
		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		24	3	7	6	40	16	16	6	10	13	7	10	11	5	5	4	143

Births in the year—Legitimate, 881; Illegitimate, 45.

Deaths from all Causes at all Ages, 421.  
 Population (estimated to middle of 1905) 26,500.



## SANITARY WORK OF THE DEPARTMENT.

### The Milk Supply.

The milk supply is under our constant supervision. I have made frequent visits to the dairies and cowsheds, whilst Mr. Robbins is constantly visiting each cowshed and dairy. I have been very much impressed with the better conditions now existing on these premises than was formerly the case. The animals appear healthier and better in every respect, which of course must have a favourable result on the milk produced. Steps are now being taken to register every milk shop, when we shall have the whole of the milk supply under constant supervision.

### Bakehouses.

The bakehouses have likewise been regularly visited, and the regulations with regard to lime-washing and maintaining them in a proper sanitary condition have been rigidly enforced. One old bakehouse has been demolished, and a new one has been built in its place, fulfilling the modern requirements.

### Meat and Fish Supply.

The meat supply of the town receives our constant attention, as also does the fish supply, both of which articles of diet are much better in quality than was formerly the case. The action taken during the past few years by the health officers has been productive of much good in this direction.

### Workshops and Factories.

The workshops and factories have received our constant attention. Several places have required to be altered to meet the requirements of the Workshops and Factory Acts, but no difficulty has been experienced in getting the requirements fulfilled. The general conditions appear to be satisfactory, both in regard to the workshops as well as that of the employés themselves.

### Lady Health Missioner.

As you are aware our present Health Missioner, Miss Woodfield, was appointed in place of Miss Phipps, who resigned, in July last. She has taken the work up in a thorough and businesslike manner, and I am convinced that if anything can be done for the benefit and welfare of the children, where her work chiefly lies, that she is fully competent and willing to do it. I append a short report from her as to the work she has accomplished since she was appointed.



The Sanitary  
Officer's Report.

I also append the Sanitary Officer's Report upon the work done in the Health Department during the year. From his report you will see that the scavenging, removal of night-soil, etc., has been done in a satisfactory manner, while the other branches of the work have been carried out to my entire satisfaction.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

GEO. B. BUTTERY,

Medical Officer of Health.

Kingston House,

Oldbury,

February 26th, 1906.

## Health Missioner's Report from July 1st to December 31st, 1905.

*Summary of Work done from July 31st to December 31st, 1905.*

Month ending.				Infants Visited.	Infants Bathed.	Revisits.	House to House Inspection.	Infant Death Visits.	Total.
July	22	...	...	...	...	24	262	...	286
Aug.	19	..	...	...	...	100	436	...	536
Sept.	23	...	...	328	16	25	11	14	394
Oct.	21	...	...	128	8	25	...	10	171
Nov.	18	...	...	178	24	49	...	13	264
Dec.	31	...	...	139	25	137	...	7	308
Total ... ..				773	73	360	709	44	1959

Five health lectures have been given during the year at— St. John's School, Tat Bank ; St. Matthew's Church, Brades Village ; Wesleyan Chapel, Oldbury ; Good Shepherd Church, Churchbridge ; The Vicar's Office, Oldbury. All the meetings were very well attended.

### INFANTS VISITS.

During the six months that I held the position of health missioner for the Oldbury district, 773 infants have been visited, of which 218 were hand-fed, 426 breast-fed and 129 were both breast and hand-fed. In the case of the hand-fed infants the food is invariably administered from bottles through long india-rubber tubes, a fertile source of injury to the health of the child—from uncleanness and consequent pollution of the food, milk especially, even when every care is taken. Various patent foods and bread were being given to infants under two months old, on the plea that "milk did not satisfy," a fact easily accounted for seeing that in some cases it had been skimmed, and in most cases the feeding was being carried on in a very irregular way, the child for one part of the day being three or four hours without food and for the remainder being fed every hour. This has especially been the case with a great many infants under two months old, when the mother's milk has been given and did not appear to satisfy, then a

patent food or sopped bread is given two or three times a day, so that the unnecessary artificial feeding is commenced before the child is registered, and generally during the attendance of the midwife. It is then somewhat difficult to persuade the mother (owing to the midwife having given contrary advice) that if the child was fed regularly her own milk would probably be sufficient. I have always strongly urged the mothers to be more particular with regard to the regularity in infant feeding, both as to time, quantity and quality, and to use the bottles made without long tubes, and this advice has been successfully followed in a great many cases, especially amongst the infants (117 in number) that are nursed out owing to the mothers going out to work.

I have also given practical lessons in infant bathing to 73 mothers.

Three hundred and sixty revisits have been paid. A great many of the houses when first visited were in a very unhealthy condition, being dirty, unventilated, having the windows nailed down, the fire-places stopped up with all sorts of dirty rags, and the walls and ceilings in a very dirty and dilapidated state. These houses have all been revisited several times, and most of them were cleaner and better ventilated when visited a second time, but after a time some of them were allowed to get into the same dirty condition again. These houses are still visited at regular intervals.

L. WOODFIELD.

# INFANTS DEATHS.

Visits have been paid to 44 houses where Infants under One Year old have died and inquiries made which give the following results:—

Class.	Cause of Death.	Total Deaths.		Sex.		Insured.	Illegitimate.	Method of Feeding.				Mothers Work.				Sanitary Con- dition of House.			Ages at Death.									
		Male.	Female.	Breast.	Artificial.			Both.	None.	Home.	Factory.	Charing.	Domestic Servants.	Food.	Bad.	Back-to-Back.	Under 1 month.	Over 1 and under 2 months.	Over 2 and under 3 months.	Over 3 and under 4 months.	Over 4 and under 5 months.	Over 5 and under 6 months.	Over 6 and under 7 months.	Over 7 and under 8 months.	Over 8 and under 9 months.	Over 9 and under 10 months.	Over 10 and under 11 months.	Over 11 and under 12 months.
1	Zymotic Diseases ...	19	12	7	10	4	6	10	3	0	14	2	1	2	12	7	2	0	0	0	3	1	2	5	2	2	2	
2	Wasting Diseases ...	10	8	2	7	1	2	6	0	2	8	1	0	1	6	4	3	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	
3	Respiratory Diseases	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
4	Premature Birth ...	2	2	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
5	Other Causes ...	11	5	6	8	4	1	6	2	2	7	3	1	0	7	4	6	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	

In Class 1 are included 11 Diarrhoea, 6 Enteritis, 2 Measles.  
 " 2 " 6 Marasmus, 2 Asthenia, 1 Inanition, 1 Debility from Birth.  
 " 3 " 1 Brouchitis, 1 Broncho-Pneumonia.  
 " 5 " 4 Convulsions, 4 Meningitis, 1 Tabes Mesenteria, 1 Suffocation.  
 1 Difficult Labour.

## *The Urban District Council of Oldbury.*

### **Annual Report of the Sanitary Inspector.**

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present to you the Annual Report of the sanitary work done in the district during the year ending December 31st, 1905.

It is with pleasure that we are able to record the greatly improved conditions of sanitation in the district which have been made during the year, both in respect to the character of the health conditions of the people themselves, and the varied improved sanitary surroundings, and the dwellings in occupation. To add to this there has been a marked increase in the new erections of a better class, which will tend to increase the characteristics of true healthy existence.

In these particulars there have been 280 new houses erected in the district with good sanitary arrangements, 95 houses have been repaired and made habitable, 102 houses have been thoroughly cleansed and lime-washed, 7 houses have been closed as unfit for human habitation.

With regard to sanitary conveniences we are regularly causing all old and dilapidated middensteads to be converted into w.c's, and 80 conversions have been made, while 12 additional w.c's have been provided, 13 have been put into proper working condition, and 53 privies and ashpits have been reconstructed or repaired.

In the matter of house drains we have kept a vigilant eye upon their condition, and any defect reported or found has received our prompt attention. There have been 135 house drains laid or re-laid, 69 have been cleansed, trapped, or ventilated, 6 defective waste pipes have been rectified, and 8 insanitary urinals, sinks, or lavatories, repaired.

We are continuing to follow the same course of action with regard to infectious disease. When any infectious case is notified to the Medical Officer, the house and premises

Sanitary  
Conveniences.

House Drains.

Infectious  
Disease.

are at once visited and a plentiful supply of disinfectants provided, and instructions are given to the inmates of the dwelling with regard to the isolation of the patient and the proper use of disinfectants, and any instruction from the Medical Officer is carefully observed and carried out. We enter in a register all particulars of cases, sanitary condition of premises, and every precaution is taken with regard to the exclusion of children from school belonging to the household, and when the patient is removed to the hospital or has recovered from the disease the house and premises are thoroughly fumigated and disinfected, and the bedding and clothing is subjected to disinfection by our steam disinfectors.

We have made inquiries into 72 cases of infectious disease during the year. Ten cases have been removed to the hospital. Fifty-seven houses have been disinfected, stripped, cleansed, and limewashed. One hundred and four lots of bedding, clothing, etc., have been disinfected or destroyed.

In the near future our hospital accommodation will be greatly enlarged, when we hope to have better convenience for the treatment of any case of infectious disease which may occur in the district.

This important part of our work is receiving our attention, and the greatly-increased consideration given to it by the general public is arousing the interest of the cow-keepers themselves, while our own exertions are being rewarded by a greater diligence on the part of the dairymen and others to conform to the orders and regulations in force in the district. We are proceeding to register all milkshops, and are visiting these places from time to time to ascertain their character and condition. Fifty persons are engaged in the milk trade, and under our supervision, and 5 cases of contraventions of the orders and regulations have been dealt with.

We are vigilantly keeping our attention fixed upon the water supply of the district, and 9 samples of water have been submitted to the County Analyst, 5 wells have been closed as polluted, and 329 houses have been supplied by the Water-works during the year.

Dairies and  
Cowsheds.

Water Supply.



#### Factories and Workshops.

Our efforts are being directed in these matters to procure as far as possible the full conformity of the workers and owners to the Acts and Regulations. We have 115 workshops and workplaces upon the register. In 10 cases cleansing and limewashing has been done, and 5 insanitary conditions have been remedied after notice or instructions.

#### Scavenging and Cleansing.

The work of scavenging and cleansing has been done with greater despatch and promptitude than in any previous year, and the yards and premises present a far more cleanly appearance. The contractor has given his constant attention and earnest consideration to the work, and there have been as a consequence fewer complaints. Likewise the provision of a greater number of portable ashbins which, together with the dry ashpits, are cleansed during the day time; this has added greatly to the convenience of the people, and has lessened the friction which was wont to exist.

We are likewise causing the courts to be cleansed and, where necessary, disinfected.

#### Canal Boats Inspection.

I have pleasure in presenting to you the Annual Report of the working of the Canal Boats Acts in the district within the year ending December 31st, 1905.

We have pleasure in stating that year by year there is a continued improvement in the condition of the canal population in this district. There is also a greater desire manifested on the part of the occupants of cabin boats to follow the instructions and to give effect to the regulations imposed upon them, nor do we find in the administration of the Acts that friction which was once so general when they first became subject to inspection and supervision.

A regular course of inspection has been followed during the year, and, from our close observation and continuous contact with the people themselves, we are able to judge of the great benefits which have been derived by the occupants of cabin boats from a judicious application of the Acts and Regulations.

We have inspected 302 canal boats and 48 contraventions of the Acts and Regulations were discovered, which have been dealt with in our usual course by caution forms giving owner or captain, or both, notice of the infringement, so that they may be fully acquainted with the facts

of the case, and in the majority of instances the work has been done and the contravention caused to cease.

The boats which have been inspected were registered for 1042½ adult persons, and the number occupying the cabins were 473 male adults, and 187 female adults, 121 children of school age, and 88 children under school age. The particulars of age and sexes are given in the table below. The number for which the boats are registered shows a good margin beyond the numbers in occupation.

	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	Under 1 year.
<i>Ages ...</i>														
<i>Girls...</i>	0	0	4	8	5	4	5	11	5	7	12	10	9	11
<i>Boys ...</i>	5	15	17	11	9	9	4	4	5	11	11	8	5	4

We have met with more contraventions of the Acts and Regulations during our inspections, which have consisted of overcrowding, marking, improper occupation, painting, dilapidation, absence of certificate, no proper water vessel, ventilation, boats without pumps. We have found in some cases where the fore cabin has been registered it has been used for store room or lumber, and this oftentimes has caused the aft cabin to be overcrowded, the whole of the occupants sleeping therein. We have drawn the attention of the captains of boats to the stopping up of the apertures intended for the ventilation of the cabins, which would cause the cabins to be unhealthy, also the proper provision of pumps on all boats, which is a very necessary equipment, even though the boat may be in good condition.

I append a tabulated summary of sanitary work completed in the district, and also a statistical supplement of canal boats inspection.

Gentlemen, I am, your obedient Servant,

GEORGE H. ROBBINS,

Sanitary and Canal Boats Inspector.

**Tabular Summary of Sanitary Work completed  
in the year ending December 31st, 1905.**

	No.
Complaints - - - - -	10
Notices issued for Abatement of Nuisances - -	228
Notices complied with - - - - -	214
Notices outstanding - - - - -	14
<b>HOUSES—</b>	
Erected - - - - -	280
Repaired - - - - -	96
Closed as Unfit for Habitation - - -	7
Cleansed and Lime-washed - - - -	102
<b>OVERCROWDING—</b>	
Cases Abated - - - - -	6
<b>HOUSE DRAINS—</b>	
Drains Laid or Re-laid - - - - -	135
Cleansed, Trapped, or Ventilated - - -	69
Sink Pipes properly Disconnected - - -	6
Lavatories or Urinals Built or Repaired - -	8
<b>WATER CLOSETS—</b>	
Additional W.C's provided - - - - -	12
Repaired, Ventilated, or Supplied with Flush Cisterns - - - - -	13
<b>PRIVIES AND ASHPITS—</b>	
Converted to W.C's or Slop Closets - - -	80
Reconstructed or Repaired - - - - -	53
<b>SCAVENGING—</b>	
Houses from which Refuse is Removable -	6203
Privies and Ashpits Cleansed - - - - -	19183
Portable Receptacles Cleansed - - - - -	20161
<b>OFFENSIVE TRADES—</b>	
Under Observation - - - - -	2
<b>WATER SUPPLY—</b>	
Samples of Water taken for Analysis - - -	9
Wells Closed as Polluted - - - - -	5
Houses Supplied from Water-works during the year - - - - -	329
<b>SLAUGHTER-HOUSES—</b>	
Registered or Licensed - - - - -	6
Regularly Inspected - - - - -	6
Cleansed or Repaired - - - - -	6

	No.
FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS—	
Under Inspection - - - - -	115
Certified for Lime-washing by Inspector - -	10
Insanitary Conditions dealt with - - -	5
DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS—	
Persons Engaged in Milk Trade now on Register and under Supervision - -	50
Contraventions of Acts, Orders, and Bye- laws dealt with - - - -	5
LODGING HOUSES—	
Registered - - - - -	1
Regularly Inspected - - - - -	1
Cleansed and Repaired - - - - -	1
ANIMALS KEPT SO AS TO BE A NUISANCE—	
Cases of Removal on Notice - -	4
OFFENSIVE ACCUMULATIONS—	
Removal of Dung, House Refuse, etc. - -	10
PRECAUTIONS AGAINST INFECTIOUS DISEASE—	
Cases of Infectious Disease inquired into -	72
Lots of Bedding and Clothing Disinfected and Destroyed - - - - -	104
Houses Disinfected, Stripped, Cleansed and Lime-washed - - - - -	57

### Canal Boats' Acts, 1877 and 1884.

302 Canal Boats were inspected, Registered for 1042½ Adults.	
277 Canal Boats were conforming to the Acts and the Local Government Regulations.	
Total Number occupying Cabins of Adult Age -	660
Male Adults - - - - -	473
Female Adults - - - - -	187
Children of School Age :	
Boys - - - - -	79
Girls - - - - -	42
Children under School Age :	
Boys - - - - -	39
Girls - - - - -	49

## Details showing numbers infringing the Acts and Regulations—

No. of Cases met with.						No. of Cases Remedied.	
5	Absence of Certificate	-	-	-	-	4	
2	Certificate not identifying owner	-	-	-	-	1	
8	Marking	-	-	-	-	7	
4	Overcrowding	-	-	-	-	3	
4	Separation of Sexes	-	-	-	-	4	
4	Cleanliness	-	-	-	-	3	
6	Painting	-	-	-	-	2	
2	Ventilation	-	-	-	-	2	
4	Dilapidation	-	-	-	-	1	
1	Removal of Bilge Water	-	-	-	-	1	
5	Without Pump	-	-	-	-	5	
3	No Proper Water Vessel	-	-	-	-	3	
<hr/>						<hr/>	
48	Total Cases met with.				Total Cases Remedied	36	
<hr/>						<hr/>	
No. of Printed Notice Forms issued		-	-	-	-	25	
No. of Notices attended to		-	-	-	-	22	
No. still Corresponding about		-	-	-	-	3	







